

JANUARY 2026 Newsletter



Dear alumni,

We wish you all the best for 2026, a year full of promise and new opportunities. In the video above, [Hortense de Roux \(H.05\)](#), President of HEC Alumni, and [Marguerite Gallant \(H.03\)](#), Executive Director, share the Association's strategy for this year and the years ahead:

"Infinite Connections, One HEC Community"

An ambitious vision aimed at strengthening the links among all members of the HEC community and fostering an ever more vibrant and supportive network. We wish you a wonderful 2026, filled with success and memorable encounters.

The HEC Alumni Team

The 3-Minute Update

 Initiative

Your Association



Infinite Connections, One HEC Community

HEC Alumni works to bring together all graduates and strengthen the connections that make our network strong.

As a graduate, you can:

- Benefit from meetings and exchanges within the HEC network
- Access events, exclusive content, and get involved in a Mentorship program
- Support solidarity actions for alumni

Today, over **60% of HEC Alumni's** activities are funded by membership fees. These contributions allow us to animate Chapters, Clubs, and Graduating Classes, develop services and content, and increase the network's impact worldwide.

If you are not yet a fee-paying member, there are two ways in which you can become involved:

- Lifetime membership through the Infinity Pass: for unlimited access to all HEC Alumni services
- Annual membership

Your engagement helps build a strong, active, and inspiring network. We are counting on your support.

Activate your 2026 membership

Already a member? Enjoy unlimited access to everything included in your membership.

**Discover the services of the
Infinity Pass**



HEC
PARIS
ALUMNI

BOOK « PUISSANTES »

30 PORTRAITS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS
EMPOWERED BY HEC STAND UP

“Puissantes”: Thirty Stories of Courage, Resilience, and Empowerment

No ambition should ever be limited by gender, origin, or social background. It is from this belief that [HEC Stand UP](#) was born. Since 2012, this HEC program has been providing free support to thousands of women on their path to entrepreneurship and financial independence.

Thirty women, thirty journeys, spanning the Paris region and Marseille, tell the story of entrepreneurship as a powerful driver of empowerment and reinvention. Together, these narratives paint the portrait of a French society that is diverse, resilient, and confidently looking to the future.

Three outstanding contributions:

- Photographs by [Steve Fiehl \(H.88\)](#).
- A foreword by [Mercedes Erra \(H.81\)](#), founder of the advertising group BETC and a committed advocate for gender equality, notably as co-founder of the SISTA collective
- An original text featured in the central section by Nesrine Slaoui, journalist, author, and documentary filmmaker

[Learn more](#)



Morocco Chapter

In partnership with AFMAA (the Franco-Moroccan Association of Business Lawyers), HEC Alumni Morocco organized an event exploring legislation and taxation in Morocco’s venture capital and start-up ecosystem.

[Discover the Morocco Chapter](#)



China Greater Bay Area Chapter

The Chapter hosted a year-end dinner in a relaxed setting to celebrate collective achievements and foster a stronger, more unified community for the year ahead.

[Discover the China Greater Bay Area Chapter](#)



Portugal Chapter

The Chapter hosted an event in Lisbon last week in partnership with ESCP and ESSEC, including a wine tasting from different regions of Portugal.

[Discover Portugal Chapter](#)



Cameroon Chapter

The Chapter hosted the 2nd edition of *Regards Croisés HEC*, which was a huge success. It was a pivotal moment in the Chapter's ambition to grow and develop the HEC community and a great way to close 2025.

[Discover Cameroon Chapter](#)

Our HEC Stories Selection



Jean-François Palus (H.84): Portrait of a Man in a Field

From Castres to Milan, from rugby to high-level strategy. [Jean-François Palus \(H.84\)](#) has lived through thirty-five years of industrial and human transformation, culminating in his orchestration of the metamorphosis of PPR, now Kering, into a global luxury giant. Today, at the age of 64, he takes over as president of the HEC Foundation.

Career path, collective values, HEC heritage, and vision of leadership: a look back at the journey of a man for whom team spirit has never left the field.

[Read the article.](#)

On Campus



HEC Paris Entrepreneurs Shaping Europe's Future Economic Leadership

2025 marks a new period of recognition for the HEC Paris entrepreneurial ecosystem, reaffirming our status as a leading institution in the creation and

acceleration of technological champions in France and Europe. Our HEC Paris Innovation & Entrepreneurship Institute climbed to the **4th position in the “Europe's Leading Start-Up Hubs”** ranking by the Financial Times and Sifted, a distinction that reflects the quality of our entrepreneur support programs, evaluated based on founder satisfaction and the performance of companies supported between 2018 and 2023. We are also proud to see our community recognized in major rankings in France and worldwide.

[Read the article.](#)



From Predictive AI to Generative AI: Understanding the ChatGPT Breakthrough

In 2025, AI remains a helpful tool – but for how long? When artificial general intelligence becomes available, could Isaac Asimov’s I, robot shift from science fiction to reality? With these questions in mind, we must make the choice of AI revolution and its most famous application, ChatGPT. That begins with understanding the often-overlooked aspects of this Generative Pre-Trained Transformer. Vincent Fraitot, an associate professor at HEC Paris and author, addressed these issues during a masterclass.

[Read the article.](#)



2026 Begins with a Bold Ambition for the Foundation!

The HEC Foundation team sends its warmest wishes to all alumni and extends its heartfelt thanks to all those who stood alongside the HEC Foundation in 2025.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and corporate partners, for the 2025/2026 academic year, **714 French and international students were awarded a scholarship**, enabling them to pursue their studies on campus.

Excellence remains a constant at HEC, embodied by its faculty and by the students admitted across all HEC programs.

To attract high-potential international candidates, HEC is expanding the diversity of its excellence scholarships through the creation of new schemes such as *Women Tech & Finance Scholarship*—designed to support women entering high-potential career paths—and *Future Leaders of Africa Scholarship*.

More than ever, the solidarity of our community is essential to continue strengthening these programs and attracting talented students from around the world. Thank you all for your decisive support.

Meetings Not to Be Missed

Thursday, 22 January 2026 - 6.30 p.m. - Online only

The Ultimate User Experience: International Conference Followed by a Cocktail and Showroom

[The Digital Hub](#) is organizing a conference to decode the new standards of tomorrow's UX.

[Register](#)

Friday, 23 January 2026 - 8.30 a.m. - L'Oréal USA HeadQuarters

"Is America Reshaping the Future of Luxury?"

The US remains the world's largest luxury market. Yet, highly fragmented, community-led, deeply polarized and increasingly value-driven, it is also a highly challenging market. This high-level conversation between key players in the US Luxury Industry will explore evolving consumer expectations, branding strategies, and the role of innovation in shaping luxury's next chapter.

[Register](#)

Thursday, 29 January 2026 - 6.30 p.m. - HEC UK House

HEC Paris & Foundation Evening: Official Launch of the New UK Campaign

HEC Paris and the HEC Foundation have launched a €300M fundraising campaign—€100M for the Campus and €200M for Scholarships, Research,

Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. With **Dean Eloïc Peyrache**, HEC Foundation President [Jean-François Palus \(H.84\)](#) and HEC Alumni's Executive Director, [Marguerite Gallant \(H.03\)](#), the event will present the campaign, reveal the Campus transformation, and share HEC Paris's vision for the future.

[Register](#)